Listing of Claims:

Please cancel the present claims 1-22 (submitted in the international application by an amendment under PCT Article 34), and substitute therefor the following claims 23-36 as shown in the following listing.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Claims 1-22 (canceled)

Claim 23. (new) An isolated polypeptide comprising at least one epitope or epitopic region of a selected one of the class Acr1; Acr2; Acr3; Acr4; AcrD; AcrR; AcrG; AcrV; and AcrH.

Claim 24. (new) An isolated nucleic acid fragment encoding a protein having an amino acid sequence as given in a selected one of the class comprising SEQ ID NO:1; SEQ ID NO:2; SEQ ID NO:3; SEQ ID NO:4; SEQ ID NO: 5; SEQ ID NO:6; SEQ ID NO: 7; SEQ ID NO:8; and SEQ ID NO:9.

Claim 25. (new) An isolated nucleic acid fragment comprising SEQ ID NO:10, or the complement thereof.

Claim 26. (new) An immunogenic, immunological or vaccine composition comprising a polypeptide as claimed in Claim 23.

Claim 27. (new) An immunogenic, immunological or vaccine composition comprising a nucleic acid fragment of Claim 24.

Claim 28. (new) An immunogenic, immunological or vaccine composition comprising a nucleic acid fragment of Claim 25.

Claim 29. (new) A method for reducing the susceptibility of fish to infection by a virulent strain of *A. salmonicida* comprising the intraperitoneal, intramuscular, intradermal, intracellular, spray, immersion, or oral administration to said fish of a composition comprising an immunogenic amount of at least one epitope or epitopic region of AcrV, any other protein of the *A. salmonicida* Type III secretion apparatus, a natural or genetically modified variant thereof, or an antigenic peptide derived or synthesized thereof.

Claim 30. (new) The method of Claim 29, wherein the at least one epitope or epitopic region of a protein of the *A. salmonicida* Type III secretion apparatus, a natural or genetically modified variant thereof, or an antigenic peptide derived or synthesized thereof, is fused to at least one other polypeptide at the N'-terminal, C'terminal, or both, and wherein the said at least one other polypeptide facilitates expression.

Claim 31. (new) The method of Claim 29, wherein the at least one epitope or epitopic region of a protein of the *A. salmonicida* Type III secretion apparatus, a natural or genetically modified variant thereof, or an antigenic peptide derived or synthesized thereof, is fused to at least one other polypeptide at the N'-terminal, C'-terminal, or both, and wherein the said at least one other polypeptide facilitates the formation of insoluble intracellular aggregates.

Claim 32. (new) The method of Claim 29, wherein the at least one epitope or epitopic region of a protein of the *A. salmonicida* Type III secretion apparatus, a natural or genetically modified variant thereof, or an antigenic peptide derived or synthesized thereof, is fused to at least one other polypeptide at the N'-terminal, C'-terminal, or both, and wherein the said at least one other polypeptide is a T cell epitope or a B cell epitope.

Claim 33. (new) A method for reducing the susceptibility of fish to infection by a virulent strain of *A. salmonicida* comprising the intraperitoneal, intramuscular, intradermal, intracellular, spray, immersion, or oral administration to said fish of an immunogenic amount of a composition comprising the acrV gene, the gene of any other protein of the *A. salmonicida*

Type III secretion apparatus, homologues, fragments, or synthetic oligonucleotides derived thereof.

Claim 34. (new) A method for reducing the susceptibility of fish to infection by a virulent strain of *A. salmonicida* comprising the intraperitoneal, intramuscular, intradermal, intracellular, spray, immersion, or oral administration to said fish of an immunogenic amount of a composition comprising the isolated nucleic acid fragment of SEQ ID NO:10.

Claim 35. (new) A thereapeutic method for the protection of fish from the toxic effect of a virulent strain of *A. salmonicida* comprising the use of antiserum directed against AcrV, variants or fragments thereof, or synthesized peptides thereof.

Claim 36. (new) The method of claim 35 wherein the antiserum is directed against recombinant AcrV.